

REMARKS

This Response, filed in reply to the Office Action dated November 1, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 10 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,896) in view of Meyer et al. (2002/0116278).

Claims 6-9, 11-13, 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,896) in view of Meyer et al. and Chui et al.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,896) in view of Meyer et al. and Chui et al. as applied to claims 6-9 and 12, in further view of Cone et al. or Narayanaswamy et al.

We note that Meyer has an effective U.S. filing date of February 17, 2001, which is after Applicant's foreign priority date of May 30, 2000. Therefore, Applicant may traverse all of the pending rejections as a procedural matter. In this regard, Applicant notes that the English translation of the priority document was previously filed on August 11, 2004. Therefore, Applicant has already perfected claim to its foreign priority date of May 30, 2000, making the present rejection over the combinations including Meyer improper. Therefore, Applicant would request that the rejection be withdrawn and all the claims be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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